

**REMARKS**

This amendment responds to an Office action dated August 15, 2003. In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 32, 34-41, 46, 47-49, 51, 59-61, 63-66, 69, 70 and 75 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Zhang et al. ("Zhang '857") (U.S. Patent No. 5,888,857). Claims 42-44 and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Zhang '857. Claims 45, 50, and 68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Zhang '857 in view of Takayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,744,822). Claims 33 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Zhang '857 in view of Zhang et al. ("Zhang '944") (U.S. Patent No. 5,595,944). Claims 52-58 and 71-74 were deemed allowable if put in independent form.

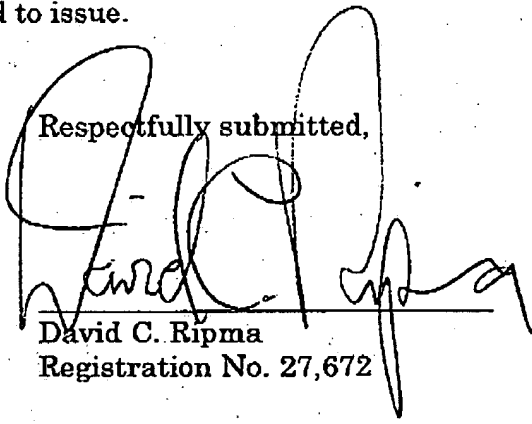
In this Response applicants have cancelled rejected claims 32-51, 59-70, and 75 and have amended the allowable claims as follows: Claim 52 has been combined with claim 51, from which claim 52 depends, and with claim 32, from which claim 51 depends. Claim 71 has been combined with claim 61, from which claim 71 depends. In accordance with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter, applicants submit that amended claims 52 and 71 are now in fully allowable form.

The remaining dependent claims 53-58 and 72-74 depend, respectively, from independent claims 52 and 71. As such, all claims remaining in the application are in allowable form.

In view of the foregoing, applicants request reconsideration of the application, as amended, and submit that the application is now in allowable form and should be passed to issue.

Date: 11/10/03

Respectfully submitted,

  
David C. Ripma  
Registration No. 27,672

David C. Ripma, Patent Counsel  
Sharp Laboratories of America, Inc.  
5750 N.W. Pacific Rim Blvd.  
Camas, WA 98607

Telephone: (360) 834-8754  
Facsimile: (360) 817-8505